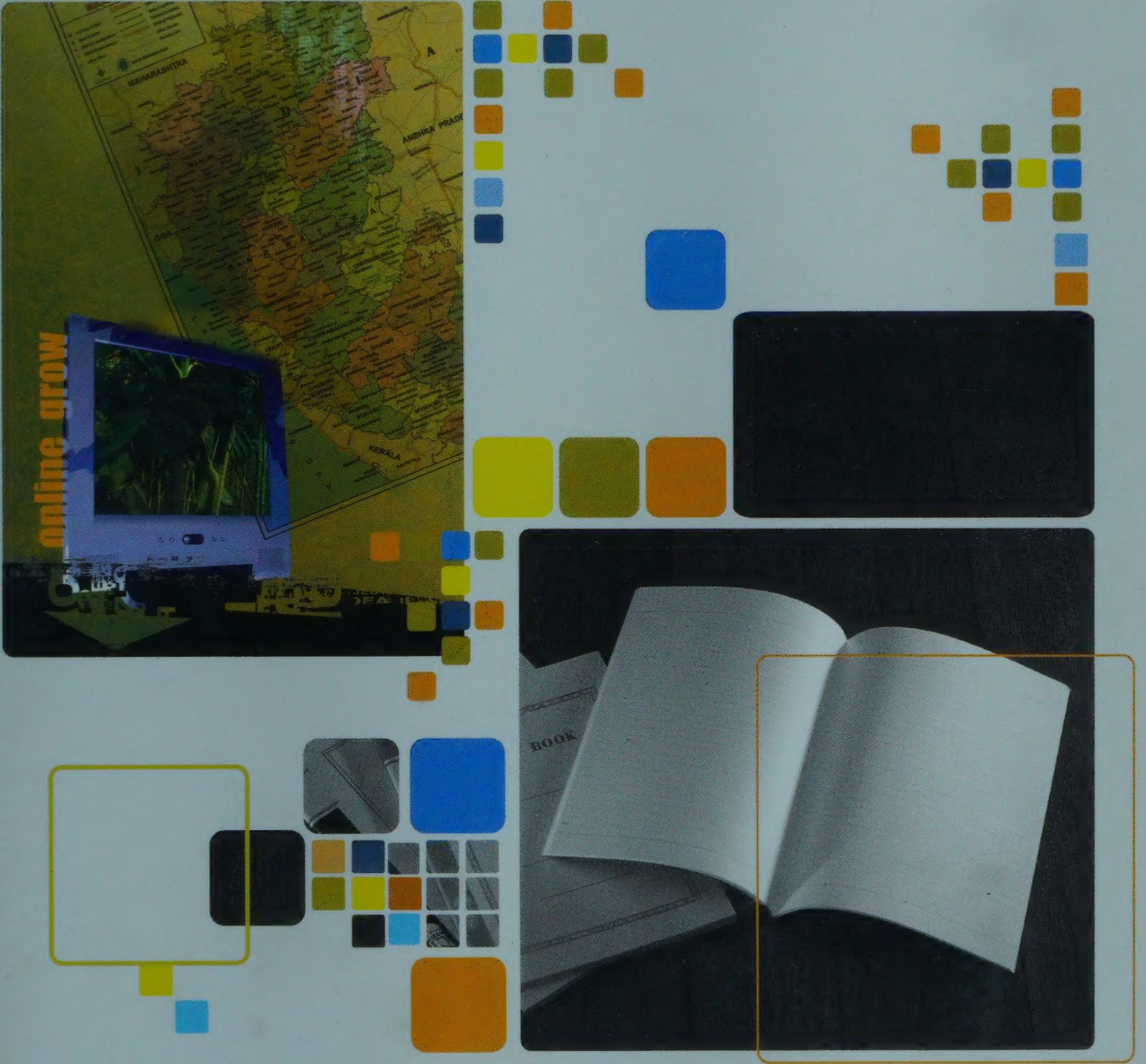


Report on Stakeholder's Consultation Higher Education



KARNATAKA JNANA AAYOGA
(KARNATAKA KNOWLEDGE COMMISSION)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

AUGUST 2011



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SOCHARA

Community Health

Library and Information Centre (CLIC)

Centre for Public Health and Equity

No. 27, 1st Floor, 6th Cross, 1st Main,
1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 34

Tel : 080 - 4128 0009

email : clic@sochara.org / cphe@sochara.org

www.sochara.org

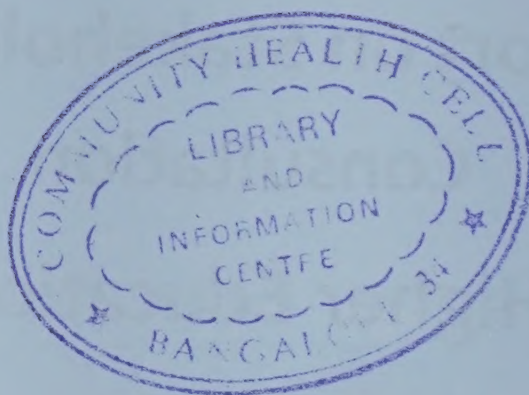
Karnataka Jnana Aayoga



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**Report on Stakeholder's
Consultation
Higher Education**

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Preface

We are very pleased to present the Report on the Stakeholder's Consultation conducted by the Karnataka Jnana Aayoga. This report summarizes the findings of a comprehensive consultation of the stakeholders through an open-ended questionnaire conducted at the University of Kuvempu, Gulbarga University and Tumkur University. The consultation was carried out during June to September 2010 and the tabulation and analysis of the data was done thereafter.

The overall size of the respondents was 280 of which the majority of the stakeholders originated from Gulbarga University followed by the universities of Kuvempu and Tumkur respectively. The number of the participants reflects the size of the attendance at these universities.

The aspiration of the youth during college and university is the time when promising seeds are planted in the minds of future citizens who are destined to play a pivotal role in the development of our state and country. This report is a document that captures what they had to say about their educational experience and to gauge whether we have succeeded in laying a firm foundation for their future success.

The questionnaire asked the respondents to enumerate three problems and challenges according to their perceived order of importance followed by three suggestions. The foremost issue that requires resolution as suggested by the respondents is to improve the infrastructure followed by the suggestion to update the syllabus and enhance the quality of education including all round training of the faculty which figured prominently in the responses.

Today's youth are restless, and fuelled by images from the media which come from all corners of the globe, they are not hesitant to expect the best. It is not surprising to notice that they seem to be disappointed with what they have in Karnataka today. The current standards of learning that is available to them leaves much to be desired and this expectation is only bound to grow in intensity.

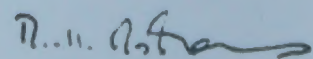
At the same time, we also see an enthusiastic eagerness that is amply reflected in their strong suggestions and an almost aggressive demand for education that is at par with the best in the world. And why not? The opinions expressed here are the opinions of an energetic youth of a country that is being asked to shoulder the increasingly heavy burdens of global challenges.

We hope that in presenting this report, we have done the best on our part to address the needs and demands of our future leaders.

I thank the Vice-Chancellors, all the students, faculty members and administrative staff for their participation and valuable suggestions. I also thank Ms. Shruthi L. and Mr. Zafar for helping us in data analysis and report writing.

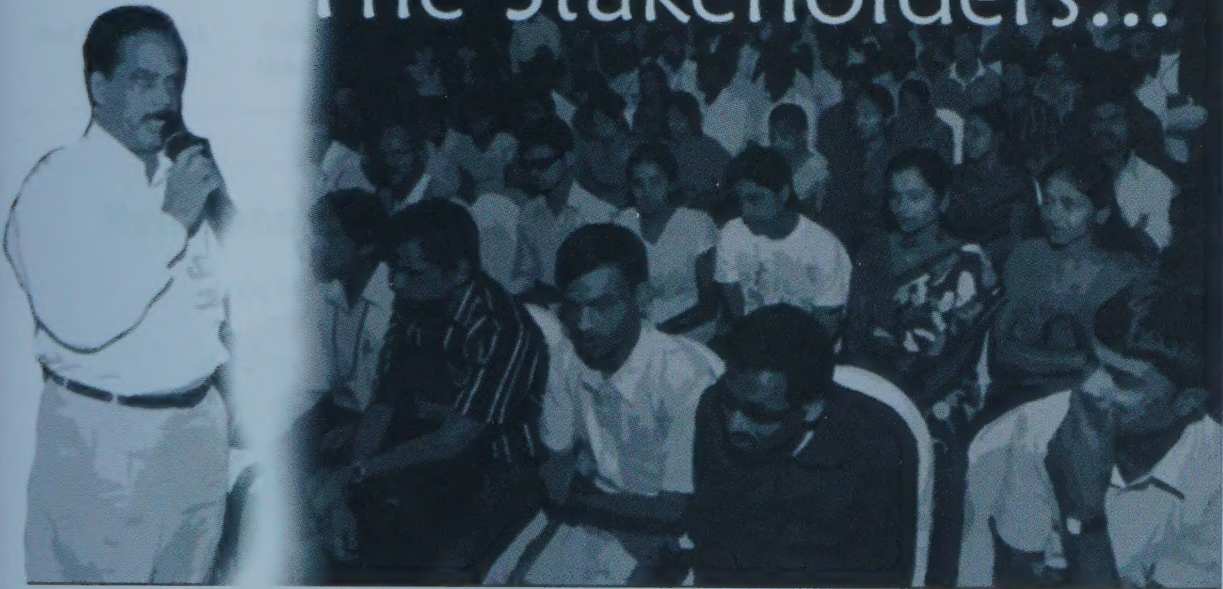
My thanks also to KJA team for all the coordination and support in conducting these stakeholders consultation meetings.

August 30, 2011



Member Secretary & Executive Director
Karnataka Jnana Aayoga
Government of Karnataka.

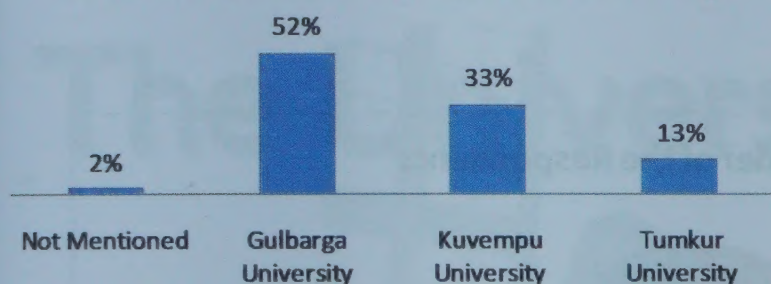
The Stakeholders...



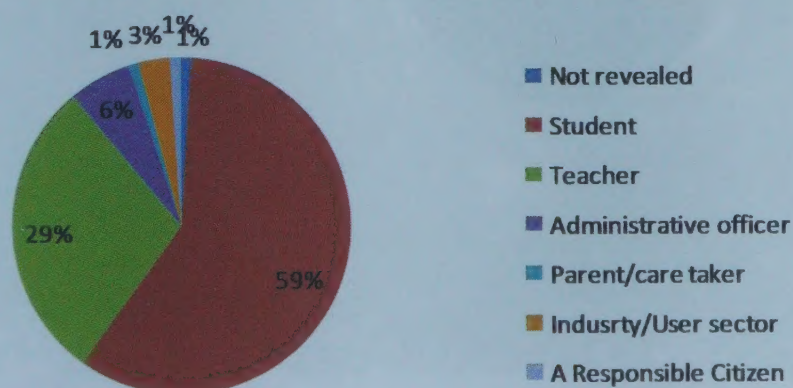
Profile of the Respondents

The overall profile of the respondents are indicated below. Gulbarga University took the lion's share of the number of respondents followed by those from Kuvempu University. 59% of the respondents were students of which the majority of them were pursuing post-graduation.

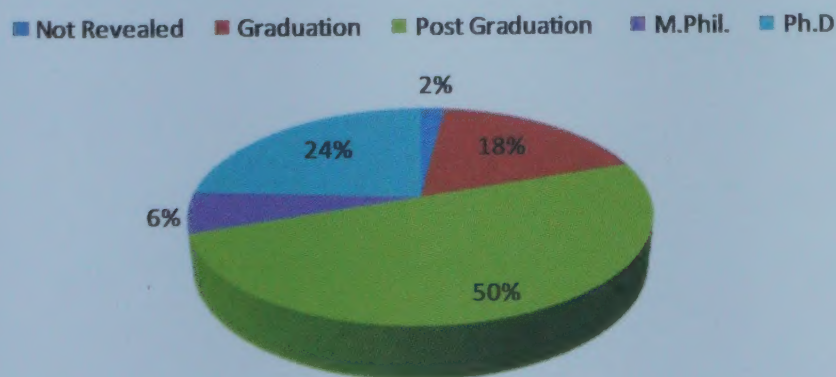
University to which Respondents belong

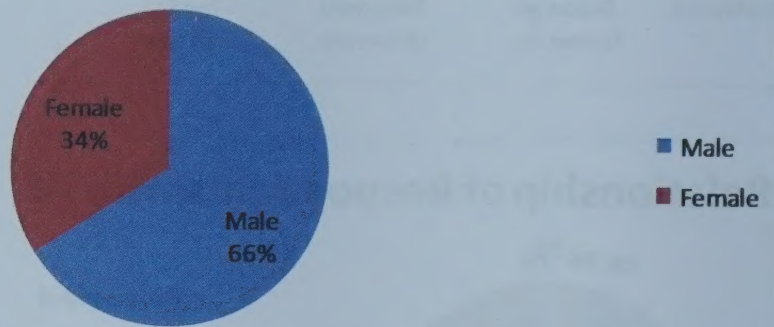


Relationship of Respondents with HE



Education of the Respondents



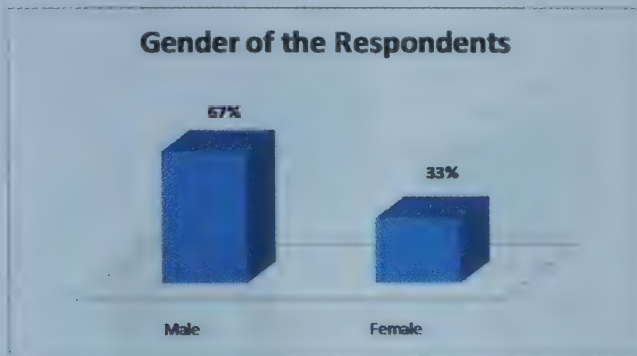
Gender of the Respondents

The Universities...

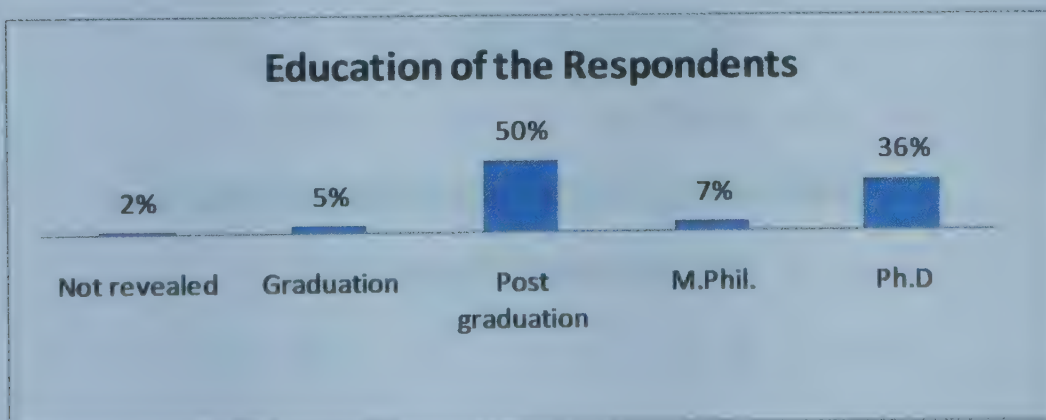
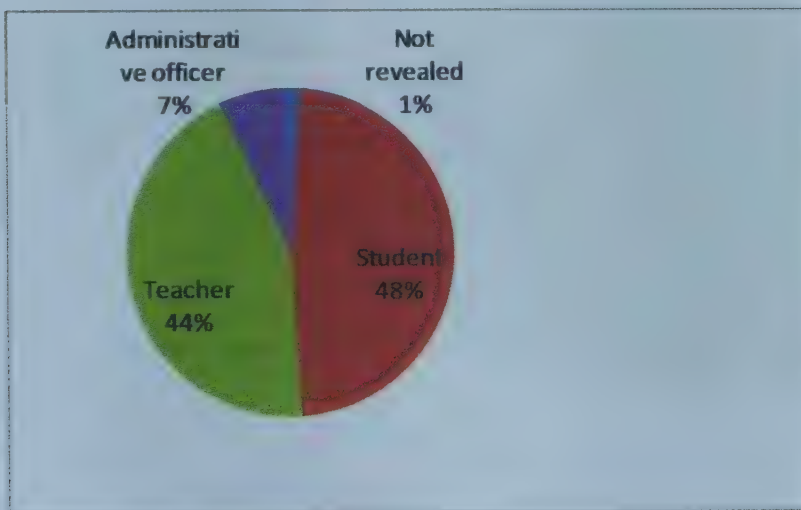


Respondents gender, their relationship with the university and their academic profile is presented university-wise in this section.

Kuvempu University

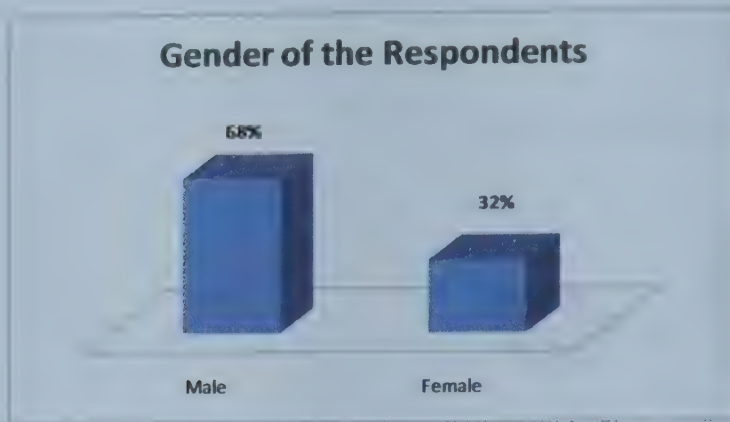


Relationship of Respondents with Higher Education

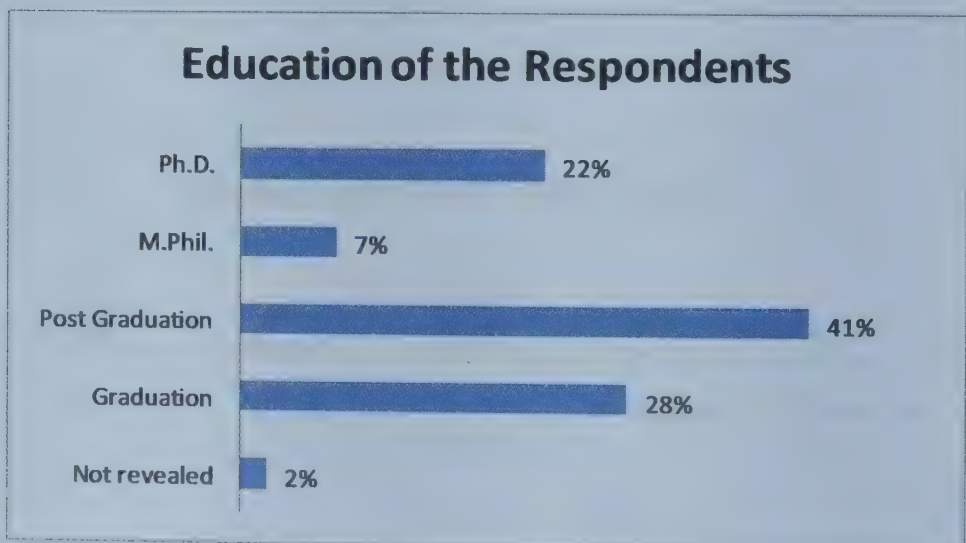
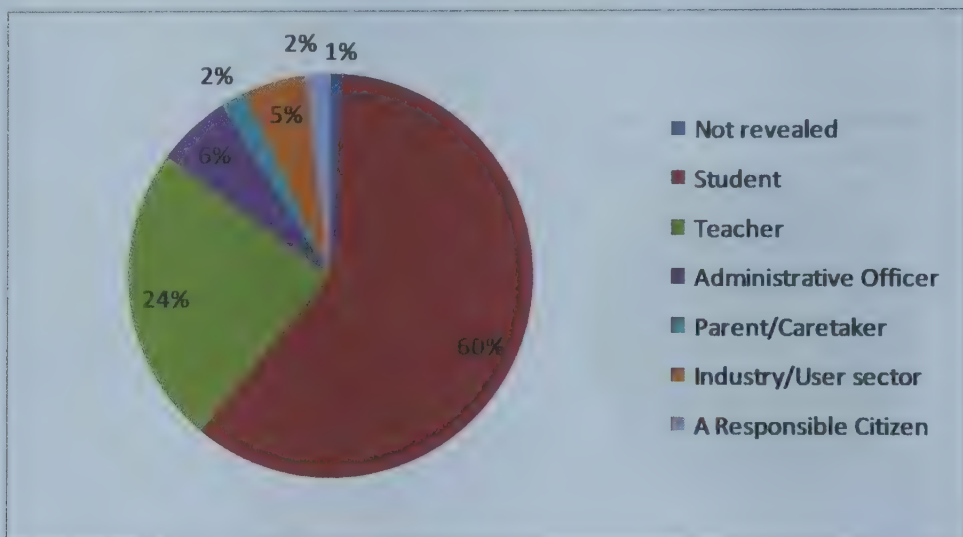


The Universities

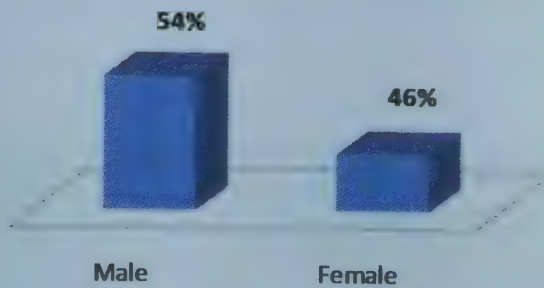
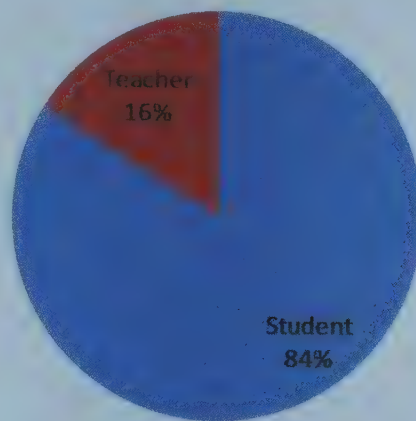
Gulbarga University

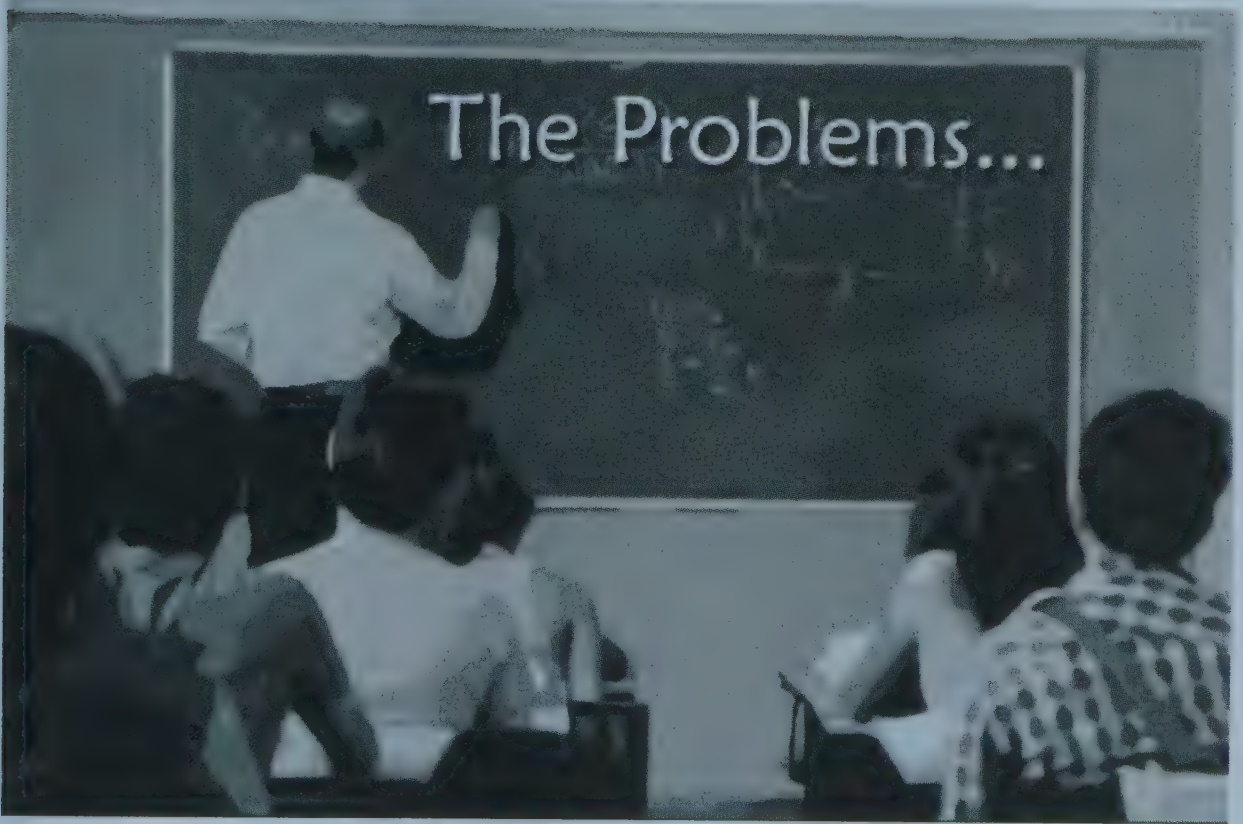


Relationship of Respondents with Higher Education



Tumkur University

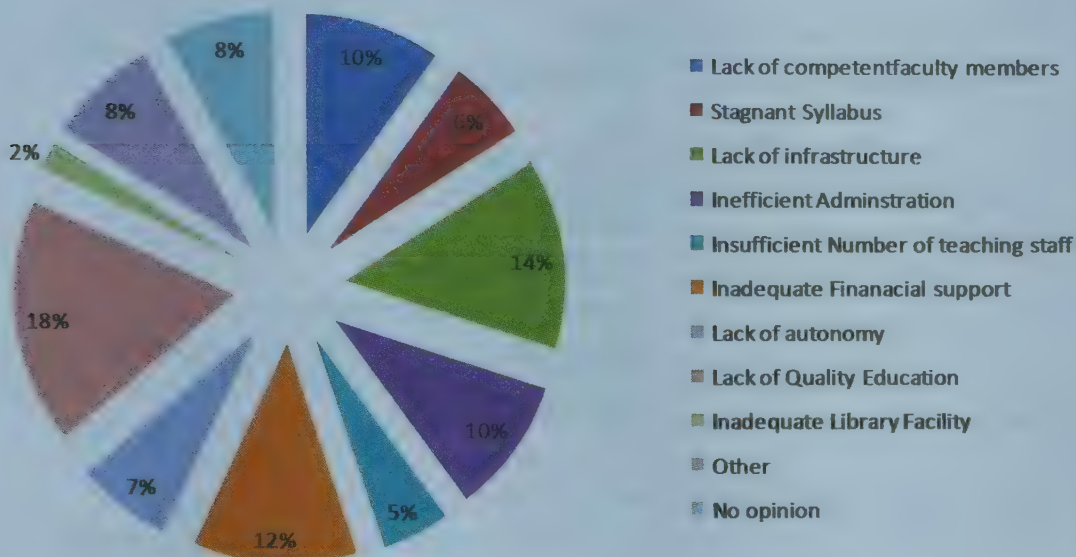
Gender of the Respondents**Relationship of Respondents with Higher Education****Education of the Respondents**



The Problems

Respondents were asked to identify three most important problems facing higher education in the state. This section captures those three most important problems.

The most important problems faced by HE



Lack of Quality education was cited to be the most important problem faced by Higher Education. This may be indicative of poor infrastructure (14%) and shoddy management of the facilities that the students face.

Respondents also mentioned about poor quality of resources and lack of library and internet facilities. Management of laboratories was also perceived to be inadequate due to the ignorance of the department concerned.

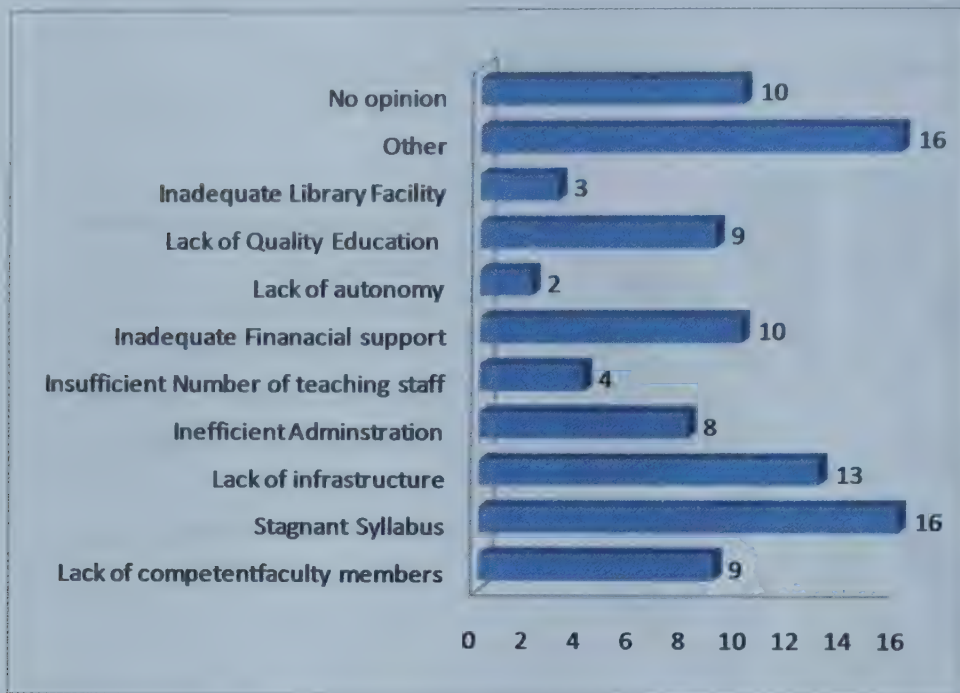
Insufficient number of staff due to posts lying vacant and inefficient administration also figured prominently in the responses recorded. The quality of incoming students was also mentioned in one of the responses as well as the poor quality of study material in the Kannada medium.



"Library centres and buildings and classes are not nice.."

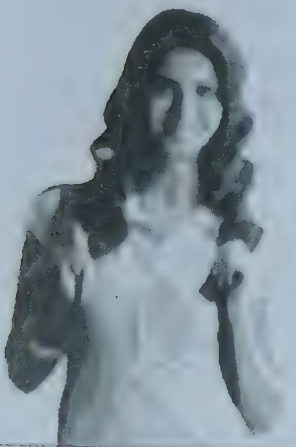
The Problems

The Second most important problem faced by Higher Education



Respondents sought efficient means and mechanisms to improve the quality of academics. One Respondent noted.. “please try to understand what the students really want!” which shows that the youth in the university campus probably feel that their views and opinions are not given the importance it deserves.

Respondents also felt that appointment of specialized teaching staff is urgently required for excellence in PG courses. Field work and practical implementation of studies would give the students much needed confidence necessary to obtain jobs after graduation. There was mention of donations being collected for gaining admission and there is no mechanism in the system to prevent this. Training of in-service faculty regarding how to interact with the students and transmit knowledge more effectively is also required.

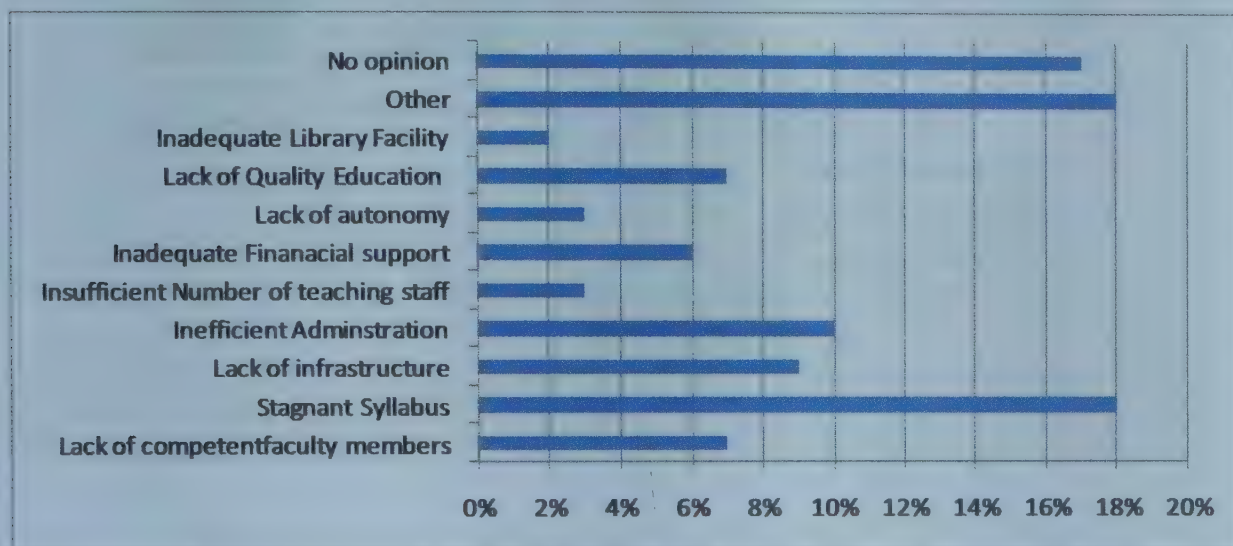


“The teaching methodology of the teachers must be more practical than theoretical, because the practical explanation is easily understood by the students.”

The Problems

The Third most important problem faced by Higher Education

The third most important problem according to the respondents is Stagnant Syllabus. Lack of competent faculty members (7%) also registered among the responses. The lack of motivated faculty is also another area of concern along with the semester system which seems to have fallen out of favor with many respondents making a note of it. The standard of the curriculum is clearly out of date and the students yearn for content that is more current as well as the methods that go along with it.



There should be a means to segregate students who are studying to pursue a job and those are more interested in academics and research. So far the system clubs them into the same group and this results in a lack of the necessary focus. Job oriented courses need to be introduced rigorously in the system as most of the students are looking to be gainfully employed.

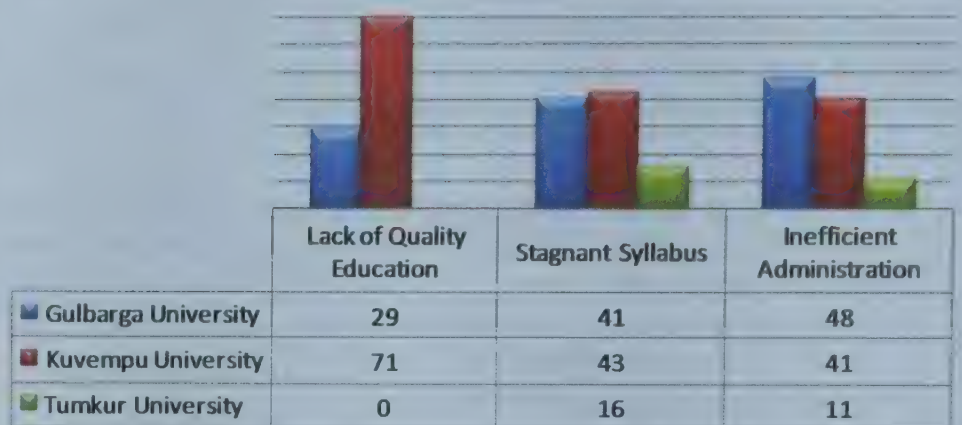
Oral demonstration of knowledge rather than undue importance to written method of examination and would make the educational experience much more realistic.

"Each student should take up at least one person from rural area to transmit and improve the knowledge of higher education for that marks should be allotted."



The Problems

Three Most Important Problems - Who Said What?



*"Skills are not developed
only stress on knowledge.
Teaching skills are not
updated."*

The Problems

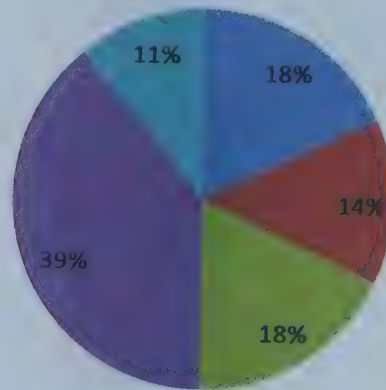
"For advance studies with introduction of new subjects teachers should take personal interest in making student eligible through to succeed and enthusice him or her in a better way."



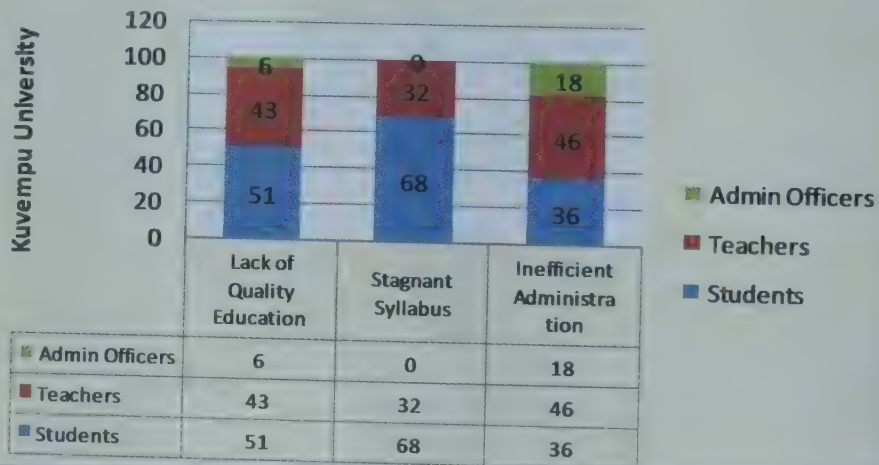
The Problems

Kuvempu University

- Lack of infrastructure
- Inadequate Financial support
- Lack of Autonomy
- Lack of Quality Education
- No opinion



Three Most Important Problems- Who Said What?

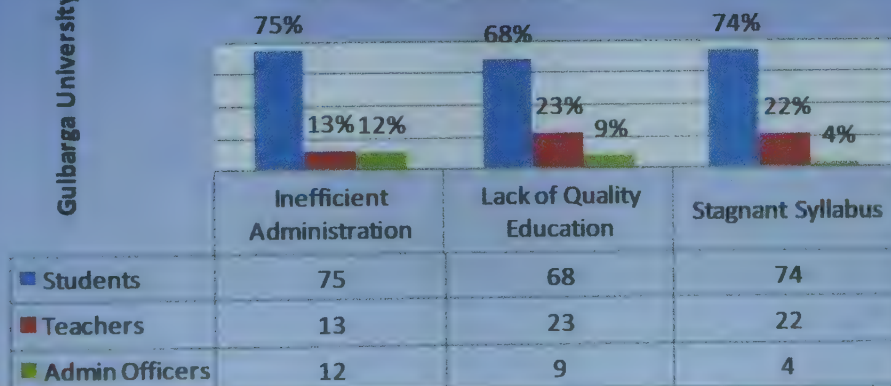


The Problems

Gulbarga University



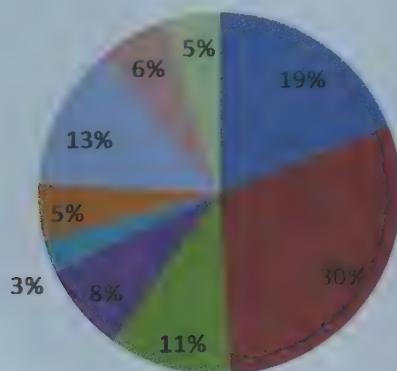
Three Most Important Problems-
Who Said What?



The Problems

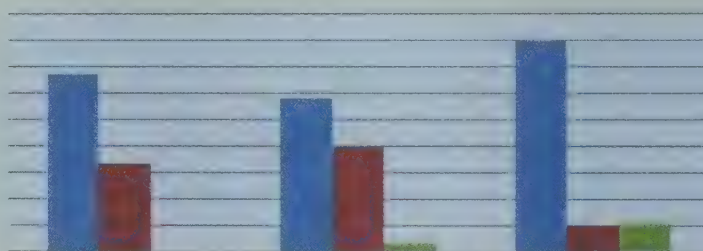
Tumkur University

- Lack of competent faculty members
- Stagnant Syllabus
- Lack of infrastructure
- Inefficient Administration
- Inadequate Financial support
- Lack of autonomy
- Inadequate Library Facility
- Other
- No opinion

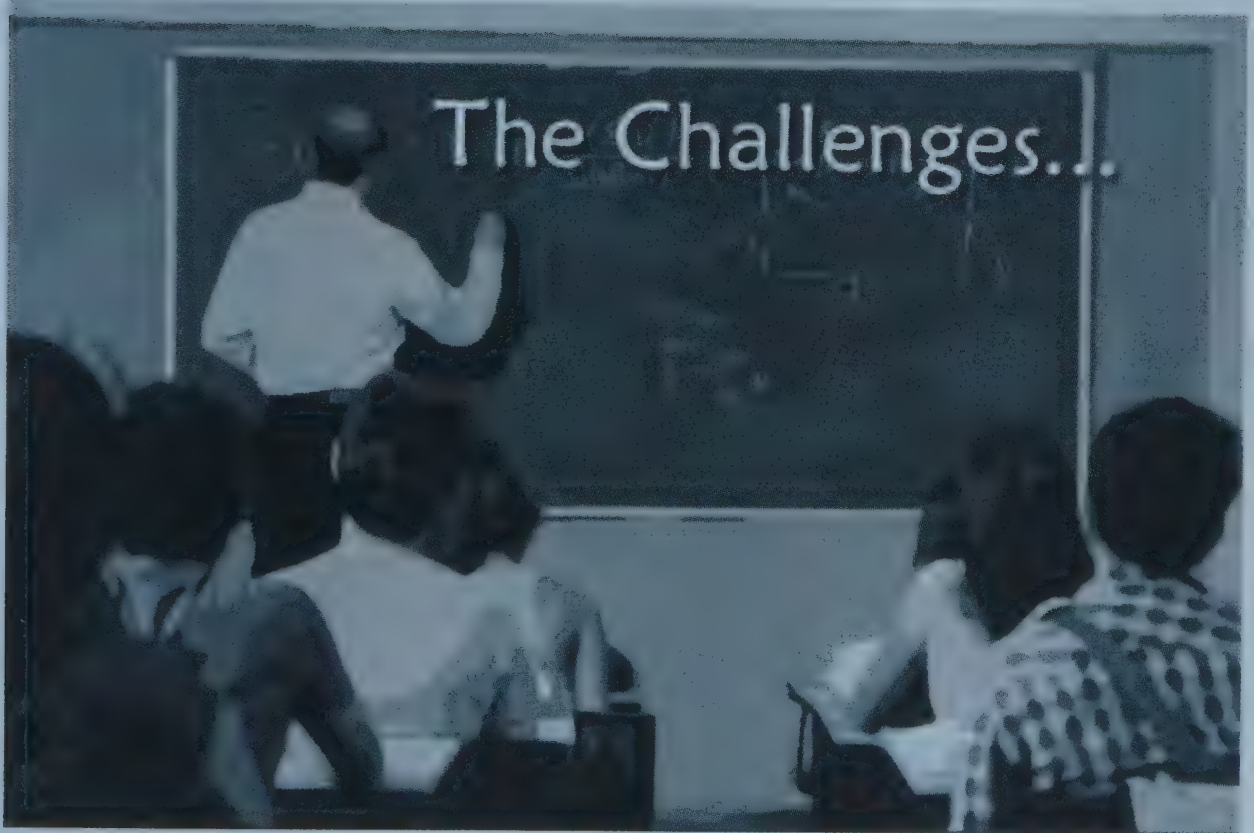


Three Most Important Problems- Who Said What?

Tumkur University



	Stagnant Syllabus	Lack of Infrastructure	Lack of Competent Faculty Members
■ Students	67	58	79
■ Teachers	33	39	10
■ Admin Officers	0	3	11



The Challenges

The question of identifying the three most important challenges facing higher education in Karnataka may have stretched the respondents imagination a little as they were required to put themselves in the shoes of those who implement the system while they clearly perceive them as wanting in efficiency to do so.



Respondents mentioned... providing jobs and employment, challenges in the field of technology, rural-urban divide, lack of experienced faculty, influence and interference of politicians across the opinions recorded by the questionnaire.

The administration of educational facilities were perceived to be driven by personal interest and there was a lack of autonomy and authority to act on implementable ideas. Teaching is still too traditional and the faculty are trapped in an archaic mindset that does not create any interest in the minds of the learners.

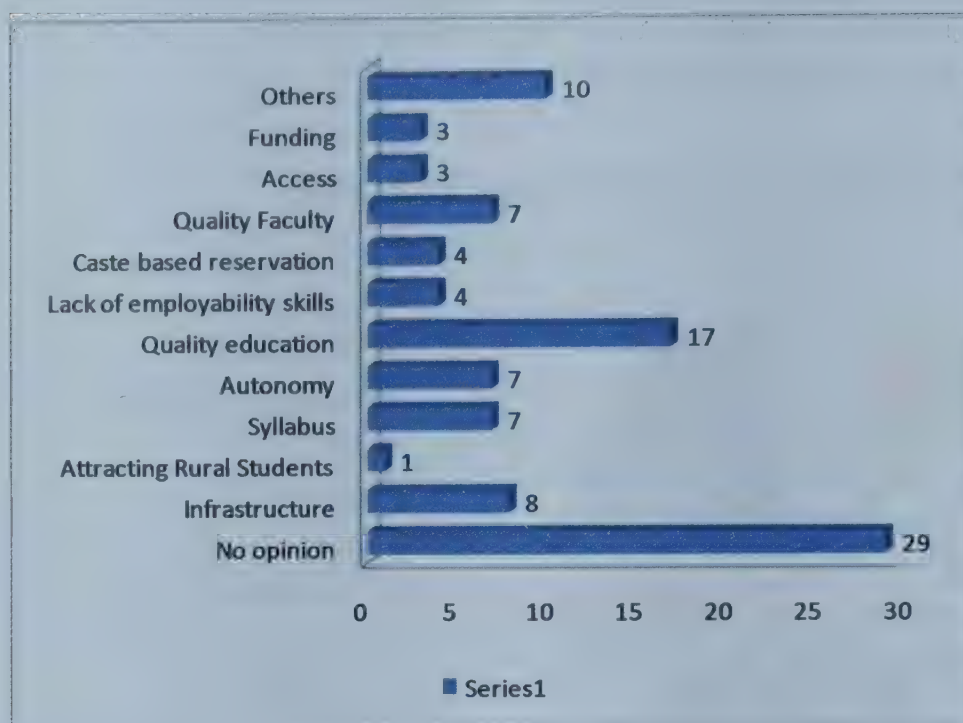
The respondents clearly indicated their awareness of rampant corruption in the system.

"Mind set of the teachers. They are money oriented rather than profession oriented."



The Challenges

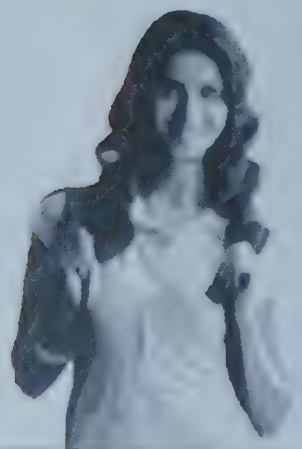
The Second most important challenge faced by Higher Education..



Social barriers, corruption, caste-based reservation and political interference is highlighted in the young minds. Lack of good quality academic leadership that stand before them as role-models seems to be the most urgent need of the hour.

There was a clear expression of the need for experienced and dynamic faculty while many noted that since academic careers are not perceived as lucrative, they are lured elsewhere.

The creation of interest in Humanities is another challenge that was noted. Proper steps to be initiated to ensure adequate teaching and non-teaching staff as well as the accessibility of good facilities to all sections of the population needs to be addressed.



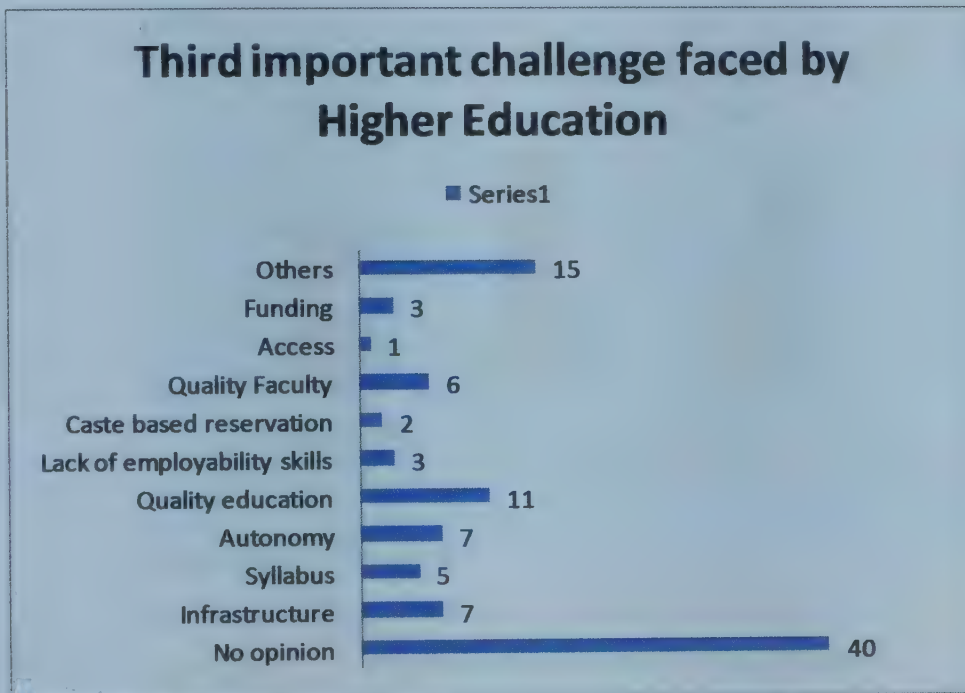
"There is a lack of creative atmosphere in our institutions.."

The Challenges

Providing Quality Education is again cited to be an important challenge facing Higher Education. Lack of employability skills and caste based reservation along with interference of politicians in the functioning of academic institutions were also expressed in the responses that we observed.

Inability to fund higher education is also mentioned as an important challenge as well as lack of autonomy of the institutions. The availability of Quality faculty is again another issue that is clearly of concern to the students as this impacts their studies directly. This may have been more pronounced among the students who pursue the Science and Commerce streams as real life skills and current data is much more important in the study of these subjects.

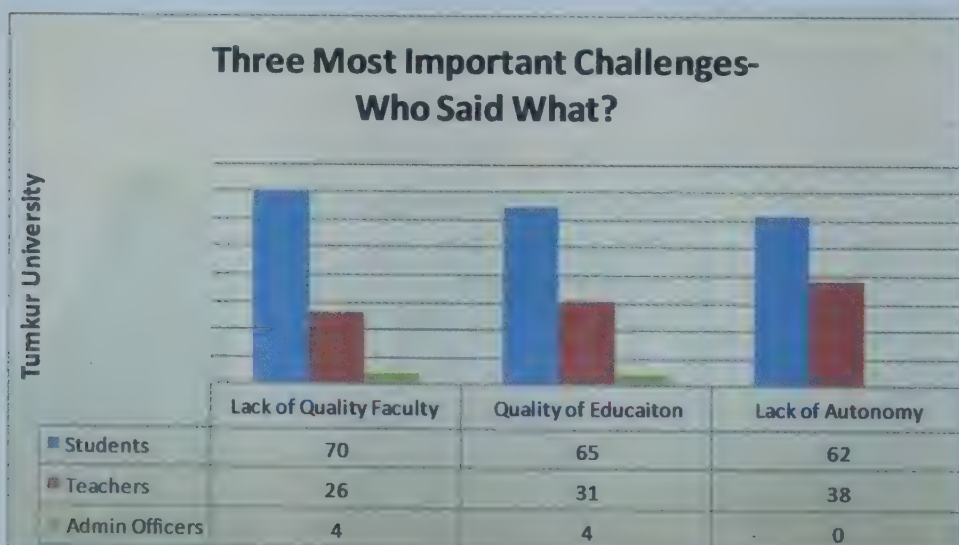
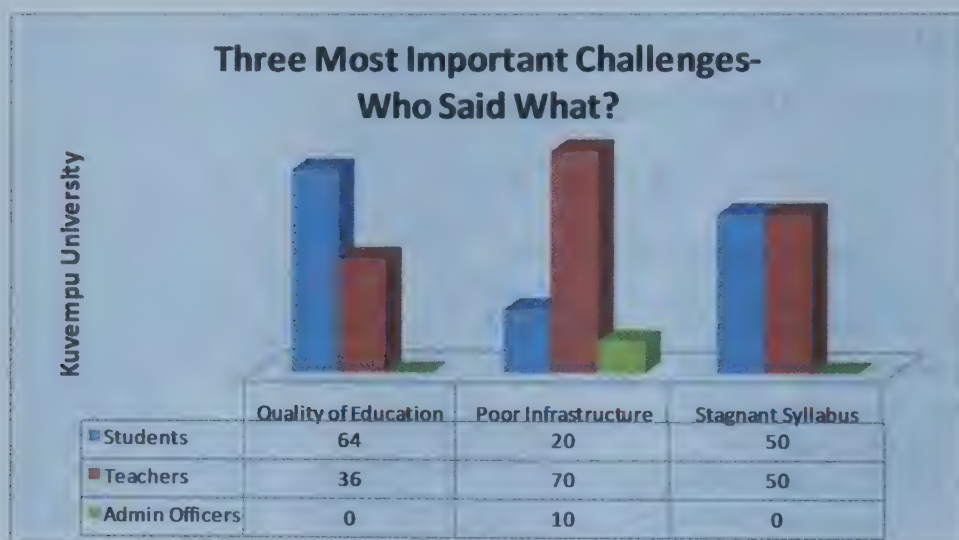
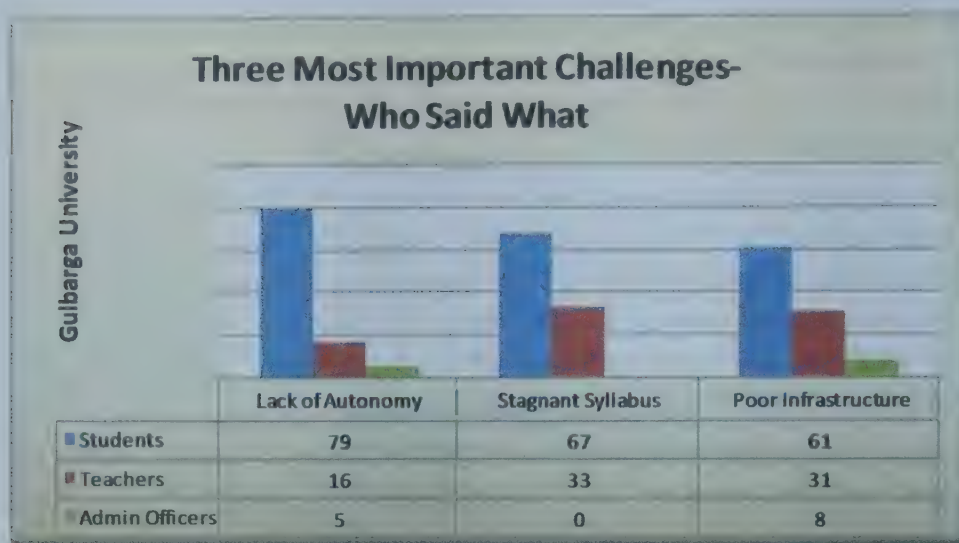
Reservation, emphasis on theoretical knowledge only and the issue of funding seems to bog the mind of many students who are keen to recover their investment in higher education.



"Give importance for those who have ability do new thing and new ideas."

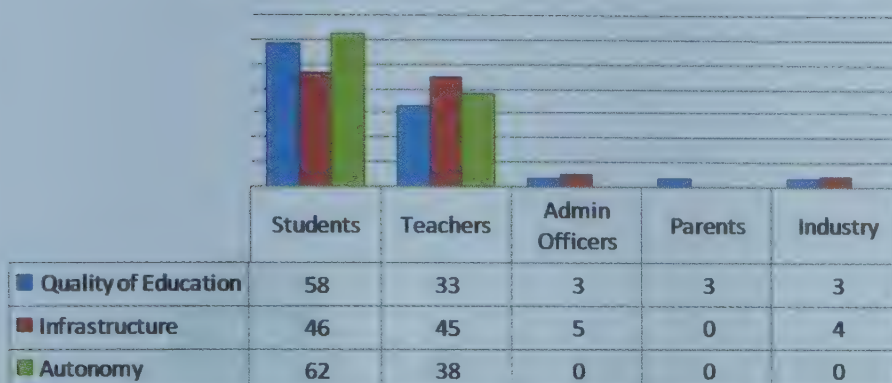


The Challenges



The Challenges

Three Most Important Challenges Facing Higher Education-Who Said What?



Among others, the following were notably mentioned in response to the questionnaire:

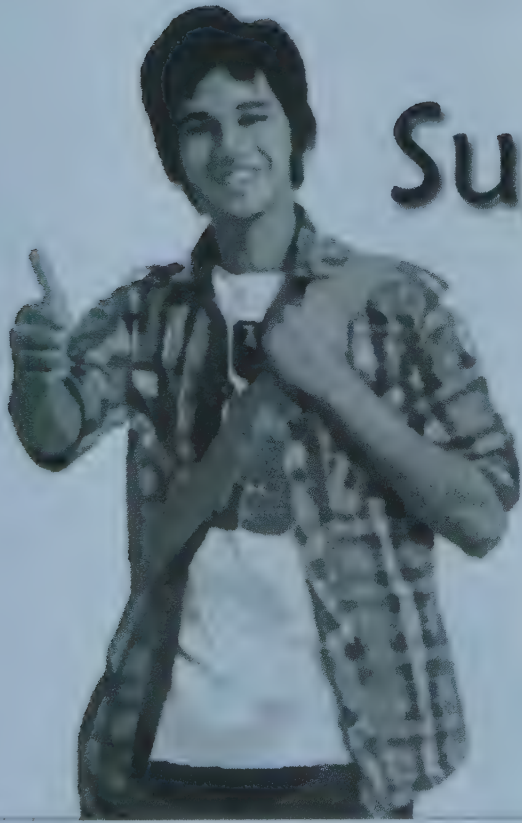
- Lack of quality of incoming students
- Communication skills of UG students from rural background is a concern
- None availability of specialized teaching faculty
- Government colleges do not have ALL streams (Arts + Science + Commerce)
- Limited scope for inter-disciplinary research
- Absence of university – society interaction
- Lack of institutional mechanisms to make use of traditional knowledge in higher education.
- Limited variety of study material
- Improper recruitment policy/procedure – positions lying vacant
- Financial constraints
- Disparity on the basis of caste
- Poor/inadequate knowledge of faculty members
- Lack of guidance/counseling
- Interference of politicians
- Lack of IT skills among faculty members
- Limited scope for multi-disciplinary research
- Lack of vision on the part of the leadership

“Mind set of the teachers. They are money oriented rather than profession oriented.”



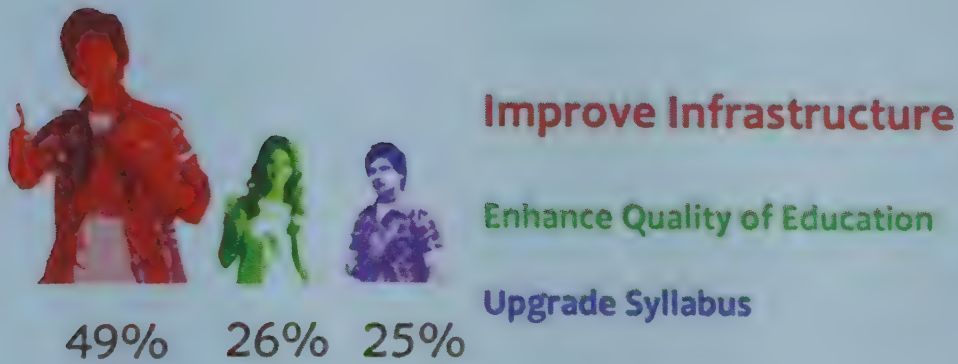
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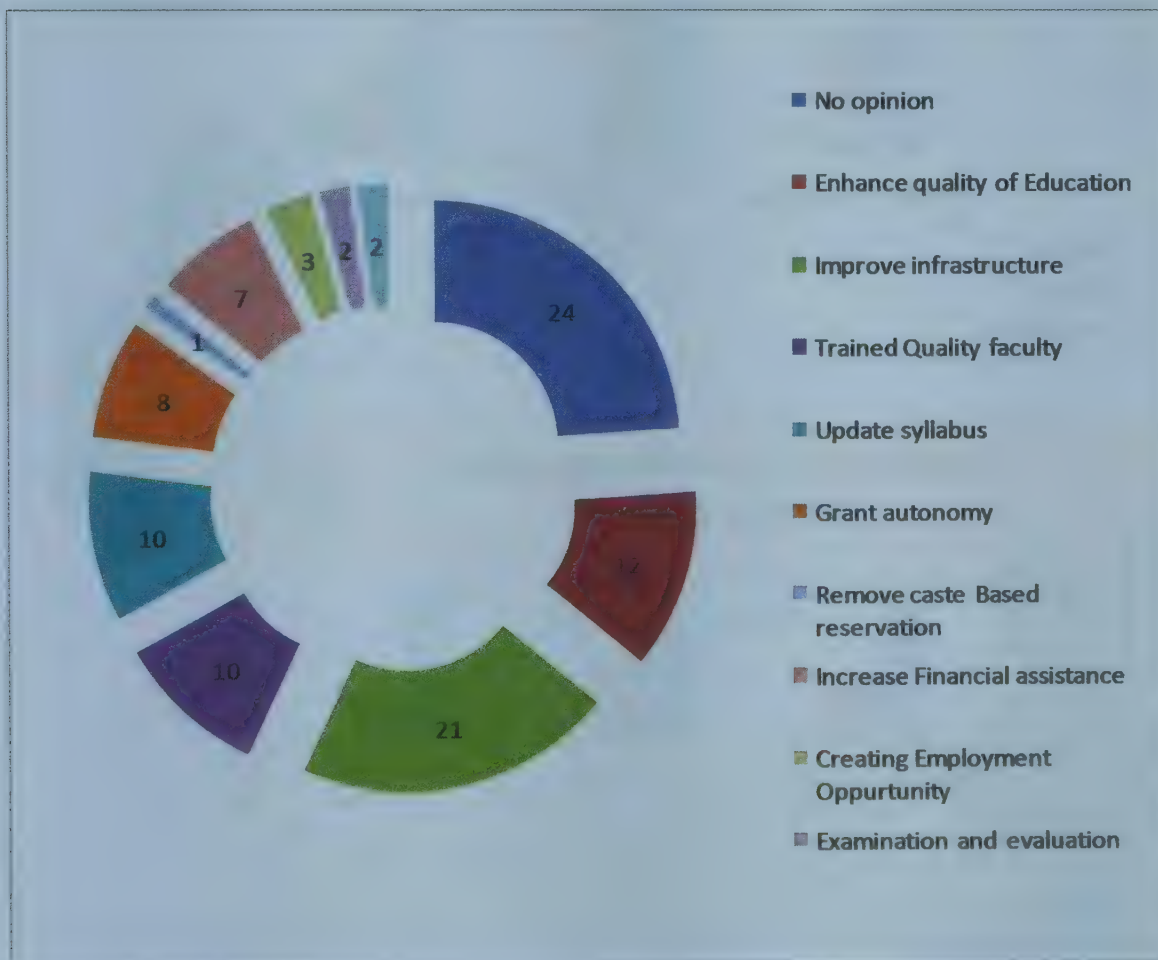
Suggestions

The Suggestions



The mandate of the respondents is unanimous about improvement of the education infrastructure. The enhancement of the quality of education takes second place followed by the updating of the syllabus, the training of faculty and granting of autonomy and improvement of funding.

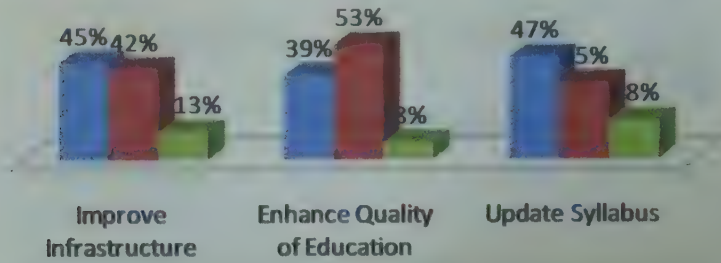
Creation of better employment opportunities (which is incumbent upon a better standard of education) is a clear trend in the minds of the stakeholders.



The Suggestions

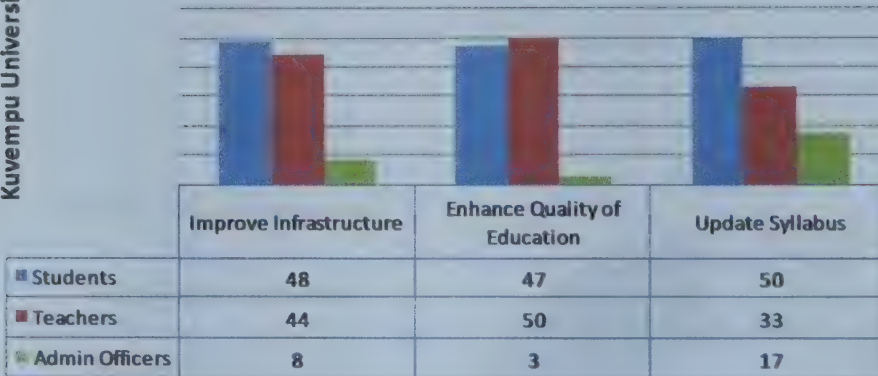
Three Most Important Suggestions- Who Said What?

■ Gulbarga University ■ Kuvempu University ■ Tumkur University



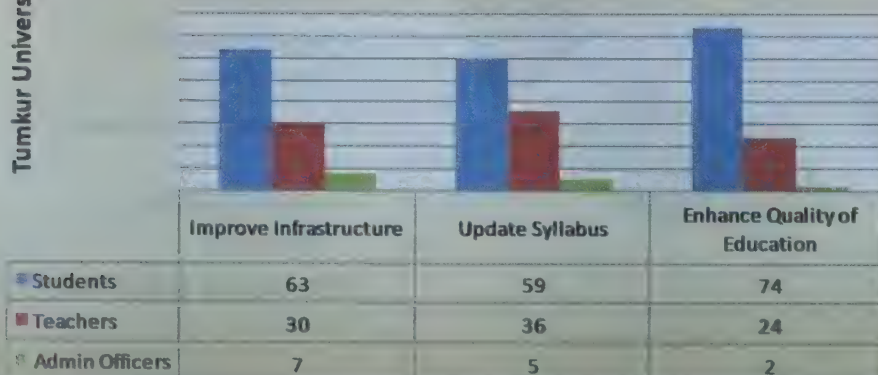
Three Most Important Suggestions- Who Said What?

Kuvempu University

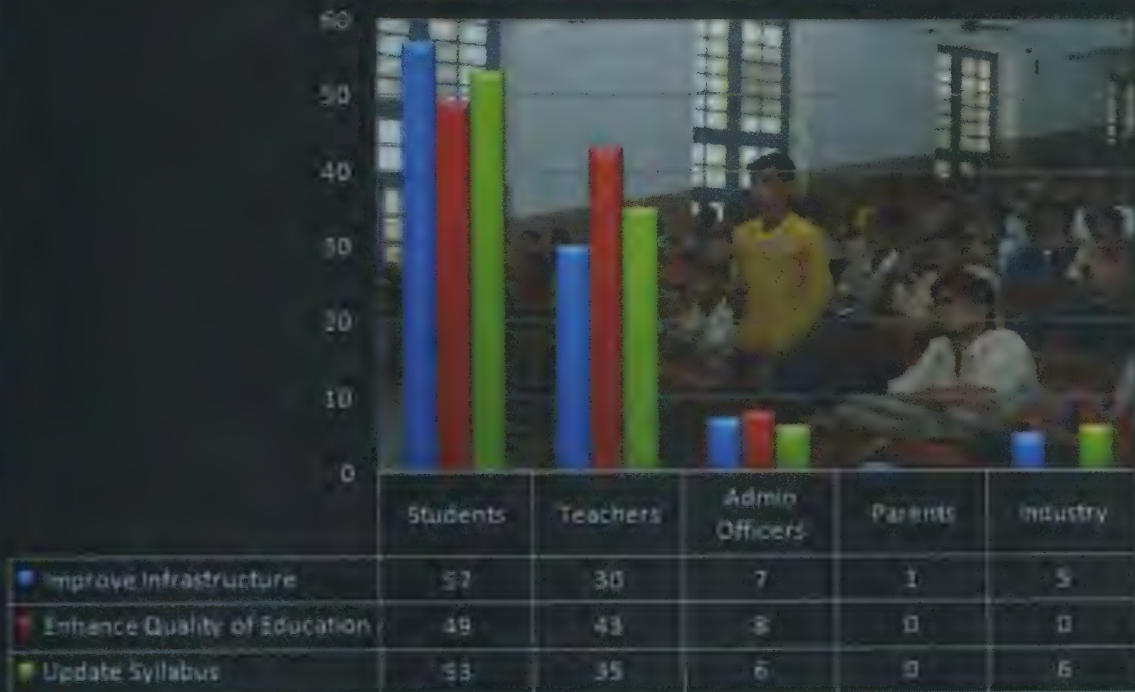


Three Most Important Suggestions- Who Said What?

Tumkur University



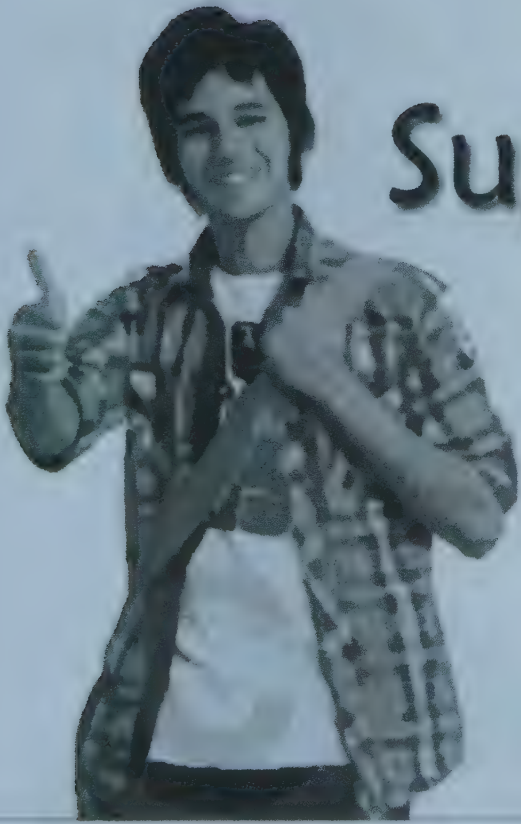
Three Most Important Suggestions-Who Suggests What



"Proper selection of teachers should be there they should be given skilled training."

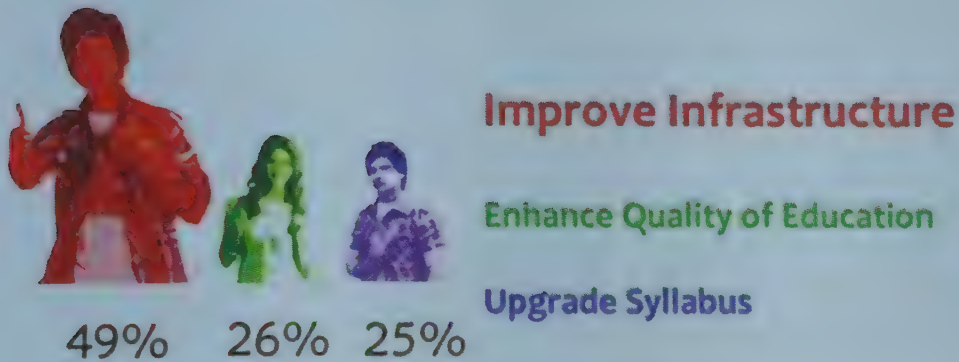
"Include present trends and concepts."





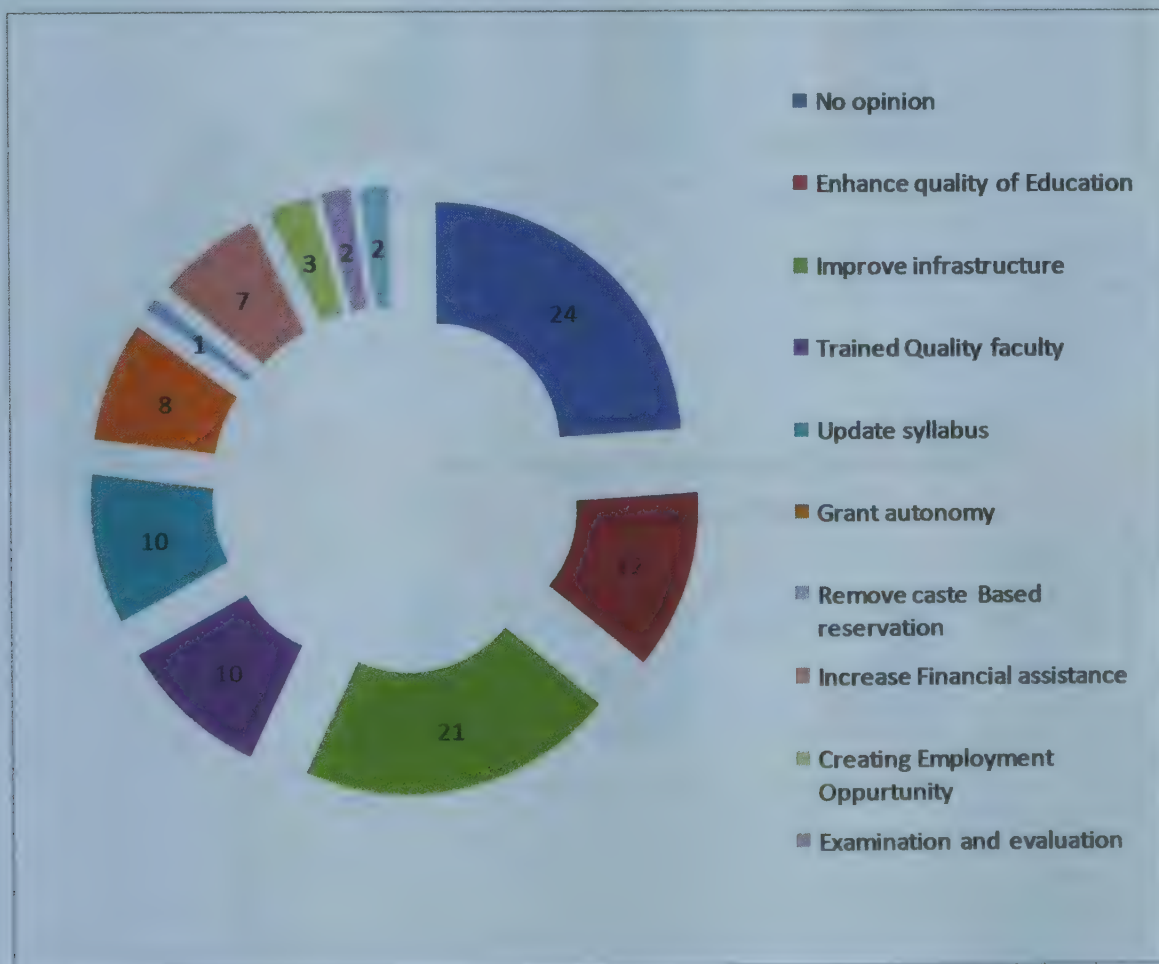
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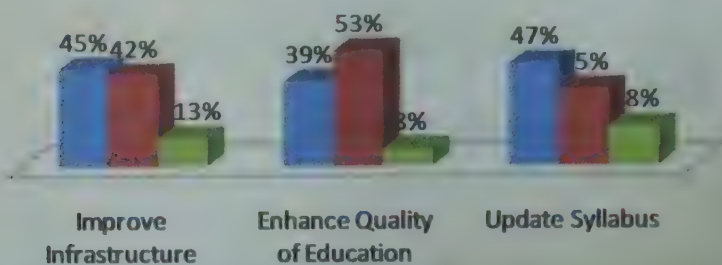
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The Suggestions

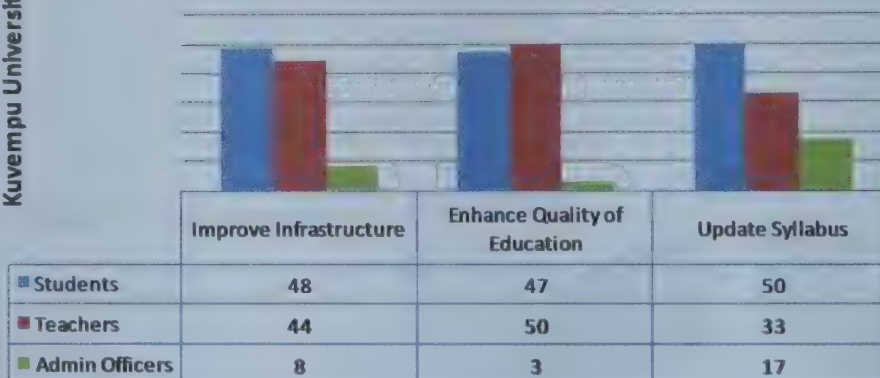
Three Most Important Suggestions- Who Said What?

■ Gulbarga University ■ Kuvempu University ■ Tumkur University



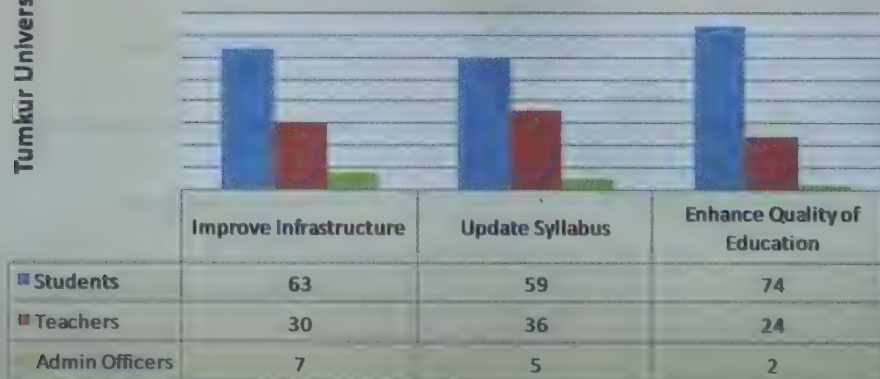
Three Most Important Suggestions- Who Said What?

Kuvempu University



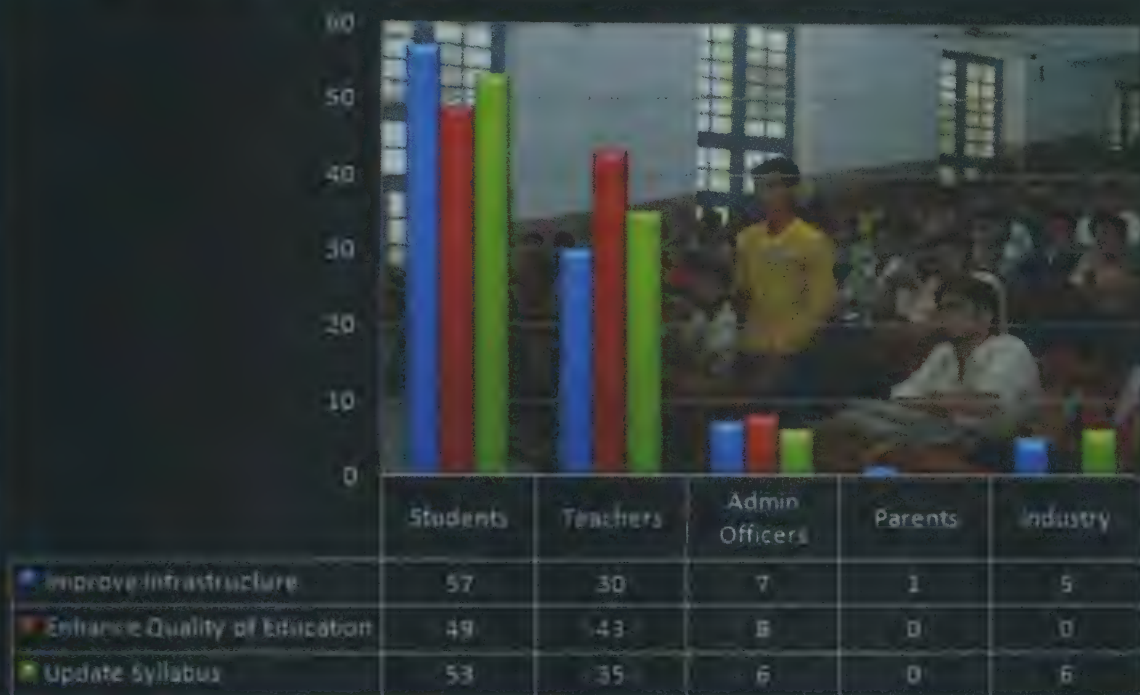
Three Most Important Suggestions- Who Said What?

Tumkur University



The Suggestions

Three Most Important Suggestions - Who Suggests What



"Proper selection of teachers should be there they should be given skilled training."

"Include present trends and concepts."

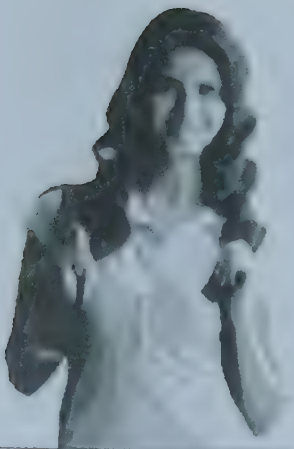


The Suggestions

Perhaps the best way to summarize the suggestions given by the respondents would be to quote a few responses verbatim..

"Every dept., in University should have full pledged teaching faculty to enhance teaching and research quality. For teaching quality there should be "monitoring" system at teaching level to enhance quality teaching by providing infrastructure facilities. Provide encouragement for research in all disciplines, without partiality of higher education disciplines in the University."

"Research is not an end it is only means to improve qualification for jobs. Existing recruitment rules (insisting that the candidate should have obtained Ph.D in that particular discipline) comes in the way of inter-disiplinary research. There should be more flexibility in the system."



"Expert guidance in career and counseling should be provided to give motivation and encouragement to the students."

The Suggestions



Please train the faculty after appointment because the should know how to interact with the students, and how to make the students to learn and know the subject.

"Syllabus needs a change, it should include new advanced subjects. As the world is changing in a faster rate, the students should keep pace with the fast world."



It is clear from the responses that there is a tremendous aspiration for higher education as a means to greater prosperity and self-actualization among the youth. They are more than aware of all the labyrinthine challenges that face education in the 21st century and higher education in particular. The three universities represent a microcosm of the entire scenario and speedy implementation of the suggestions is an urgent necessity.

Youth must be able to find answers (or at least clues) to the problems they face in real life inside the classrooms as there seems to be a disconnect between what happens in the class and outside of it.

Hopefully, the indications given in this report serve to sharpen the focus of the vision and clears the path ahead.

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For more...



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&

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(Zedaxisweb.com)



ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಆಯೋಗ

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(Karnataka Knowledge Commission)

Government of Karnataka

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